



**Southern Thailand  
one year after  
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## **EDITORIAL: Ecotourism versus Racism**

The world's opinion-makers may have remembered to pay tribute / lip service to Rosa Parks, the woman who stood up for the rights of millions, by not standing up. However, in spite of, or rather through globalisation, in its current, not so popular, "free trade" form, racism and apartheid are re-emerging. What is common between indifference towards northern Pakistan earthquake victims (in sharp contrast to tsunami victims), the civil unrest in France, the new murders of tourists in Bali and Amman or the endless deaths of young Africans, Afghans and Kurds desperately trying to reach fortress Europe? Racism, xenophobia, ignorance and intolerance.

Could it just be a case of ordinary people being hypnotised by eloquent leaders, political or religious, elected or unelected, preaching on satellite TV - the new global balcony / shrine - the use of violence to pursue their bigoted interests? Perhaps, but the problem runs deeper: the mirror image of racism is inequality, both between & within societies: one feeds the other, in a vicious circle. Only if inequality is tackled, can the chain break, and human potential freed. This can not happen simply through political correctness: e.g. a law forbidding the recording of ethnic origin in official statistics (France), at the same time when ethnic minorities are not represented at all in parliaments (most countries), but over-represented in prisons (all countries). Talk is cheap, but it does not solve real problems.

So can genuine Ecotourism, as a movement, play a part in tackling inequality & racism? It can and it may also be an option for quick results, in the remotest parts of real or urban jungles, as time is running out. How? By making alternative forms of tourism affordable to all people, not just to economic elites. By developing mutually beneficial bridges between immigrant communities and their origins. By focusing on genuine, community-controlled, Ecotourism in war-torn, immigrant producing countries. By encouraging unemployed and idle youth from 'developed' countries to travel to '3rd world' communities, to open their eyes and ears to the world's problems and guide their young energy towards solving problems in a constructive, rather than destructive manner. By spreading tourism-generated wealth in an equitable, sustainable manner. By promoting and supporting family and community ventures rather than chains, luxury, and all-inclusive enclaves. Let's beat prejudice and ignorance, by facilitating sincere exchange of ideas between hosts and guests, in the equitable manner of genuine ecotourism, where both sides do not feel exploited. Let's work for the rule of law and international law, and fair play within and between countries. Let's tax the excessively affluent, find the corrupt wherever they may hide, stop the dangerous new arm-race, and use the proceeds to treat our immigrant neighbours and their descendants as one of us, rather than lowering - already low - working standards or taking away hard-won rights (the Orwellian process of "making the labour market more competitive").

Ecotourism is an intelligent, civilised, way - starkly different from force-feeding "democracy" fast-food-style - for dismantling barriers, dogmas and other meaningless divisions, (and borders eventually) which perpetuate inequality, poverty and ignorance, fuel racism and hatred and threaten, due to technological advances, the very continuation or meaning of humanity. Read on page 3 about two such hopeful community ecotourism projects in Thailand, REST and NATR.

**Antonis B. Petropoulos, Editor**

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## New Members

### 🌿 New ECOCLUB Sponsor Member in Greece

We warmly welcome Maris Hotels Group, in the Mediterranean island of Crete, as our new Sponsor Members. Maris operate Avdou Villas, which is an organic 2.2-hectare estate and olive & orange grove and Villa Arhanes, a faithfully restored Cretan mansion of 1890.

► <http://www.maris.gr/alternative/>

### 🌿 New ECOCLUB Ecolodge in India

#### Mountain Trail in Mukteshwar, Uttaranchal Pradesh.



At 2300m asl, watch the sun rise over the glorious Himalayan peaks and deep valleys from your private balcony, perched on a hill at the edge of the quaint village of Mukteshwar, surrounded by a lush, colourful orchard with 15 varieties of fruit and 75 varieties of flowers! Dilip Gupta, a Mechanical Engineer who started what was to

become the Mountain Trail Lodge as a passion, twenty years ago. Visiting the area since childhood he was very keen on protecting its environment, and is now assisted by Mayank Gupta, his son, who shares the same passion.

► <http://ecoclub.com/mountaintrail>

## ECOCLUB Ecolodge News

### 🌿 Ecuador (Black Sheep Inn):

Every year, Smithsonian Magazine and Tourism Cares for Tomorrow honour those members of the travel and tourism industry around the world, who are committed to protecting the natural and cultural environment. From over 100 entries, a panel of judges chose Black Sheep Inn of Ecuador, as the winner in the Conservation category, for "making a significant contribution to protecting and enhancing their natural environment through an innovative approach to travel and tourism". The judges also noted "Black Sheep Inn owners' strong commitment to the community, exemplified by diverse projects such as school assistance, ancillary business development and waste management."

► <http://ecoclub.com/BlackSheepInn>

### 🌿 Dominica (3 Rivers):

At the International Hotel & Restaurant Association 42nd Annual Congress, held in Beijing, China on October 30th, 2005, 3 Rivers was awarded 2nd prize in the 2005 Environmental Award. 3 Rivers Ecolodge add this award to the ECOCLUB.com Ecolodge Award they received in July 2005.

► <http://ecoclub.com/3rivers/>

### 🌿 Costa Rica (Laguna del Lagarto):

Unless you were unconscious for the last 50 years, you must be aware of the destruction of forests around the world. In the time it will take you to read this paragraph, another 20 hectares will have gone up in smoke, or more probably down the river, while each side blames the other for indifference or inefficiency. While "stakeholders" pontificate about what must be done at the global level, Vinzenz Schmack, the proprietor of Laguna del Lagarto, has come up with a practical idea that just works at the local level, and who knows, even beyond: Saving the Rainforest through enlightened co-ownership. With transparent, clear rules that guarantee conservation in a self-sustaining manner. It may sound like a tall order, but it is deliciously simple and already happening: For just 250 US Dollars you and your loved ones, can now become co-owners of a 250-acre (100-hectare) virgin Costa Rican Rainforest and assist in its permanent and complete preservation. To your ethical satisfaction, add unique benefits: As a shareholder you and your direct family (spouse & children) will receive a permanent 20% discount on the prevailing room rates of Laguna del Lagarto Lodge, which sits on the edge of this (lucky) Rainforest. As a Shareholder you will be free to sell your shares at any time with a potential increase in value. This unique project does not exclude profit but pursues it within the framework of, and for the benefit of, sound ecological principles. Potential earning sources for shareholders include an entrance fee for using the rainforest trails, renting the rainforest to leading institutions to research medicinal plants and tackle incurable diseases, as well as trade in CO2 absorptions. Already, owners of neighbouring Rainforest have expressed interest to join this innovative project, and it is thus hoped that the project will ultimately contribute to the preservation of a large portion of privately-held Rainforest in northern Costa Rica.

► <http://ecoclub.com/laguna-del-lagarto>

**ECOCLUB Ecolodge Reports**

**✿Arthur Campbell in North Carolina, USA (Spring House Farm):**

Luckily we had absolutely no weather from that hurricane as she swept the eastern part of the state. When i was living in Florida and an airline pilot, I actually flew through the outer bands of Andrew when evacuating Nassau Bahamas. This was the hurricane that devastated lower Miami in '92. When living in Florida at the time, we watched the weather closely during this time of the year. Since we are in the blue ridge mountains, we don't worry as much but still keep a keen eye as we are affected by what comes up from the gulf area. Incidentally, I have found an old farm house c. 1830 and have had it moved here to the farm We are completing a full restoration and when completed, it will be added to our cottages making six in total. This old house is called an Appalachian Cottage and is of frame construction which was unusual since most folks lived in log cabins in the day. Interestingly, this old house has not been lived in since 1941 and has never had electricity or plumbing! It has fine hand plained pine wood panelling and virgin growth wide heart pine heart pine floor boards. It should make a splendid addition to our cottage line up.

► <http://ecoclub.com/springhousefarm>

**✿Rachel Feiler in Kenya (Diamond Beach):**

We are doing really well on Manda, we had our clean the beach day last month and collected loads of rubbish, didn't manage to weigh it though, a whole tractor trailer load full. All the Diamond staff and about 10 other locals helped with donkeys taking the rubbish to a main point on the beach and then in the boat over to Lamu town to the official dumping site. It is the Lamu Cultural Festival on the 18th-20th November which we are all looking forward to. Lots of local Swahili cultural events being organised. Lamu has also had a group of 20 professionals from all over the world putting in a test project of compost toilets, SANS is the company who provide the toilet paid for by the Swedish Govt. They have put in 5 toilets with 5 families in the town so it should be interesting to see how the project goes. We have been quite busy, had the professional surfers in August which was a big success.

► <http://ecoclub.com/diamondbeach>

**✿Sompong Sritatera in Cambodia (Yaklom Hill Lodge):**

First, we have added more area in the veranda of each cottage and guests now can enjoy sitting in the lush jungle and hammock can be borrowed on request to tie at this new area. We add 2 common bathrooms with hot water shower (available from 6-3 pm) located in the residential area, so that those who are frightened with the evening super cold shower in the cold season can have the better option.

► <http://ecoclub.com/yaklom>

**✿Francisco Sandoval in Guatemala (Uxlabil Atitlán):**

After the landslides and rainy days, yes we are operating quite normally. We had not serious damages, the only one effect was the raising of the Lake Atitlán level, but we are 13 meters above and in front the lake. All services are being provided. Of course, on your trip you may notice some effects of those heavy rainy days, landslides especially, but roads were repaired quite rapidly.

► <http://ecoclub.com/uxlabil>

**ECOFOCUS**

**Southern Thailand, A Year After.**

*by Antonis B. Petropoulos, ECOCLUB Director*



Master of Ceremony, Akel Biltaji, Special Advisor to King Abdullah II of Jordan introduces Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Liptapanlop. IIPT Founder Louis D' Amore first from left

I visited Thailand in October, having been invited to present ECOCLUB.com-International Ecotourism Club as a best practice, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Summit on Peace Through Tourism, hosted by the International Institute for Peace through Tourism (IIPT), and held 2-5 October 2005, in Pattaya. The Summit's Theme was "One Earth One Family: Travel and Tourism - Serving a Higher Purpose" The Summit provided a forum for government, leading educators, researchers, professionals and practitioners, from over 50 countries, to debate Tourism's contribution to the global issues of our time, including poverty & violence reduction, discuss the response to the Tsunami and encourage tourists to return to South Asia. In addition to plenary sessions featuring tourism and environment ministers from mainly Asian and African countries, as well as representatives of international tourism bodies and associations, there were concurrent sessions with real world case studies, and models of best practice. Concurrent session topics included: engaging youth for change, poverty alleviation indicators, biodiversity, voluntourism, community tourism, indigenous



Power panel: (from left) V.Sereyuth (Senior Minister, Cambodia), D.Migereko (Tourism Minister, Uganda), A.Biltaji (Advisor to the King, Jordan), R.Mabudafhasi (Dep. Minister of Environment & Tourism, S.Africa), E.Chingunji (Minister of Tourism, Angola), U.S.Chung (Chairman, Federation of Korea Tourism Associations)

tourism, homestay development, assisting small and medium sized enterprises and making travel accessible. It was a special conference both in terms of meaningful discourse, and uniquely, in terms of bringing together top decision-makers with field-workers and, most importantly, community representatives, minimising protocol and maximising outcome. The opportunity to discuss issues such as

sex tourism, given that the summit was held in infamous Pattaya, was sadly not used, probably out of courtesy to the, truly gracious, hosts.



Director A.B. Petropoulos presents ECOCLUB.com – International Ecotourism Club as a best case practice at the IPT World Summit

At the summit I had the great pleasure and honour to talk extensively with many leading tourism & community development practitioners, such as Professors Trevor Sofield and Jim Macbeth, and three distinguished ECOCLUB Members, Ms Jane Crouch (Intrepid Travel, Australia), Dr Vicky Nair (Taylors College, Malaysia), and Ms Judy Karwacki (Small Planet Consulting, Canada) and pleasantly surprised to find quite a few regular readers of e-Magazine at the Summit.

After the Summit, accompanied by Professor Jim Macbeth, I travelled to Southern Thailand, to visit the tsunami-stricken villages in the Kao Lak / Kuraburi area, where the good people of NATR (<http://www.northandamantsunamirelief.com>) headed by Bodhi Garrett (formerly with the destroyed Ecolodge Member Golden Buddha Beach), are operating. It was an opportunity to see first-hand their work with Buddhist and Muslim village communities, teaching English, their soap-making and card-making projects.. Our trip also coincided with a Vegetarian Festival in the area so the kind volunteers of NATR, invited me with them to take part in the traditional 5 hr ceremony (and the food!). This festival takes place in Phuket and Phang Nga each year and is recommended include in a tourism calendar.



With Dr Viknewsaran Nair



With Ms Judy Karwacki

Part of the exciting work that NATR is carrying out has to do with handicrafts, assisting local village women in producing them and selling them. Readers can visit [www.northandamantsunamirelief.com](http://www.northandamantsunamirelief.com) and find detailed handicraft information. There is a minimum of 20 hand-made cards and no minimum for the wooden Moken (sea-gypsy) boats. (to order send an email to [relieffund@inet.co.th](mailto:relieffund@inet.co.th) for more details). While the world's media despairs of unrest in southernmost Thailand, NATR's silent success, a bit to the north, shows that there is hope, if heavy-handedness is replaced

by light-handedness & common sense..



With Prof. Macbeth, Ms Lucy Dixon-Clarke NATR Coordinator, and good NATR Volunteers Georgia, Pa, Jo, Anallise



On our way to Laem Naew, where NATR conducts English Lessons, on one of the two boats they donated to the village



Paper Making at the Community centre. Beautiful designs.



Georgia teaches the Community English Lesson. Group, made up of students of all ages (mothers and their children) are split into two teams who compete, fun and effective.



Community Soap Making. Just arrived before the women were about to depart for Ramadan.



Later in October, during a school holiday, NATR also organised an activity camp for the children of the Bak Jok community who have still been living in a temporary shelter for the last 10 months. Sixteen teenagers from Bak Jok, joined NATR staff in Sri Phangnga National Park for two days of learning and fun. The children experienced camping for the first time and were challenged to learn about themselves and the environment in which they live.

My Thailand journey would not have been complete without a visit to at least one Responsible Ecological Sustainable Tourism (REST) project, <http://www.rest.or.th> an award-winning group, managed by Potjana Suansri and Peter Richards, two leading Thailand community tourism experts. I stayed at their homestay program near Surat Thani, and also attended a meeting and a pilot tour witnessing the meticulous process with which REST plans new tours with the full participation and consent of the local community, that will also help conserve an important river delta. May they be more community ecotourism projects like REST & NATR, further south.



Buddhist Vegetarian Festival. 5 hrs of true sound, sights and flavours of Southern Thailand.



REST engaging in Community Tourism Planning by the book! The community representative speaks his mind.



With Peter Richards and Jane Crouch of Intrepid at the REST Homestay



Touring an edible worm facility! The industrious worm entrepreneur took the idea from a TV program! Worms are high in protein and increasingly in demand in the local market.



A huge ficus, one of the few remaining, in Kao Sak National Park. The area was spared deforestation as it was guarded by student guerrillas during Thailand's troubled 1970s

Despite the tsunami, Southern Thailand is a wonderful place with kind, cheerful people, and I now believe violence can go away further south, if progressive policies are followed. Visibly, reconstruction of tourism facilities is taking place at great speed, with the result that errors, like building very near to the sea, and a lax application of zoning laws is repeated. Reconstruction of people's homes is perhaps not that fast, with land disputes delaying reconstruction. But normality has returned to most places, public transport infrastructure is good, as are telecoms, (high-speed internet!), and by all means do visit Thailand, people are cordially waiting for you.

- ▶ <http://www.northandamantsunamirelief.com>
- ▶ <http://www.rest.or.th>

**Eco Photo**



This photo is the first photographed Reef Ball (artificial reef) in a tropical coral reef environment (Indonesia) that has made the full transition to a natural reef, in 5 years. By looking at it you could not tell that this was once an artificial reef. Reef Balls can therefore be used to restore reefs that have been damaged by dynamite fishing. The effects of dynamite blasts would otherwise last decades because the debris is unstable and new coral reefs cannot form on the unstable fragments.

For more reef monitoring photos:  
<http://www.reefball.org/album/indonesia/2005monitoringphotos/index.html>

**ECOCLUB.com Ecolodge Awards 2005 - Update**

**Dr Anurag Goel, Director of [Rainforest Retreat of Karnataka, India](#) and coordinator of the Award-winning Project reports:**

The Galibeedu Organic Association (GOA) now has a full legal status. The rice, planted in July, is expected to be ready by end of December. Other crops that GOA is already actively pursuing or mulling are tea, coffee and vegetables. Rainforest Retreat have made a demonstration to GOA Members on how to prepare EM (effective micro organisms) and use it to make compost and directly treat the plants for more robust health. Other methods such as the use of cow urine and botanical pest repellents have been discussed and will be implemented. We will now collectively purchase and distribute the raw materials required. Below are a list of the members and the details of their organic produce:



Rice crop looks promising



Fresh green tea leaves are being steamed

**Ganapathy, age 45 yrs, small holding near Galibeedu village:**

Ganapathy has approx ½ acre of mature tea he has not put any chemical fertilizers for the past 2 yrs. We will introduce organic manures and initiate foliar sprays with EM (effective micro organisms). The next crop of tea that is harvested (within the next 2 weeks) will be processed into green tea with our guidance and we will also help to package and sell directly to the tourists visiting this area. The half acre tea garden typically produces approx 25 kg of fresh tea leaves for each picking (every 3 weeks). He has been selling these leaves at a nominal price but there is very little demand for this produce. We have demonstrated how he can produce Green tea which is known for its beneficial health properties and has a good demand among the tourists visiting here. In the production of green tea, the fresh leaves are first heated to inactivate certain enzymes that cause fermentation of the leaf. This is done by steaming in a simple kitchen vessel for 5 minutes. (photos 4 and 5 show the process of fresh leaves being steamed and the steamed leaves )The leaves are then dried in a warm chamber or first cut up, then dried. From 24 kg of fresh tea leaves we were able to produce 3.8 kg of green tea which can be packaged and sold for an average price of rs 250/kg.

**T R Vasudeva, age 40 yrs, small 3 acre rice holding in Galibeedu.**

Vasudeva has prepared his field with organic manure and planted paddy in July. There was a lot of erosion during this monsoon and some had to be re-planted in August. The field is looking ok and we will advise him to prepare some organic manure and also some EM based sprays as well as a spray with plant extracts that have insect repellent properties. His rice will be purchased by golden mist plantation and possibly exported. Some will be purchased by the rainforest retreat to serve to our guests here.

**Shivanna, age 36 yrs, small joint family holding near Rainforest Retreat.**

Shivanna has not used any chemical fertilizers or pesticides for the past 3 yrs and has 1 acre of paddy and 6 acres of coffee and pepper. The rice is for home consumption and we will apply the same techniques as with Vasudeva to help ensure a good and healthy harvest. The coffee and pepper (harvest Jan/Feb) can be sold for a premium as organic thru some of our contacts.

*The paddy grown by Vasudeva and Shivanna has reached waist height and will begin flowering in the next 3 weeks. The flowering has been delayed due to the prolonged wet weather so harvest will also be delayed until late dec/early jan. one foliar spray of EM has been completed and the plants are healthy and there has been no serious pest/pathogen attack so far.*

**C K Ponnappa (Muthanna) age 46, large unmaintained ancestral holding of which a small part is actively cultivated.**

Muthanna will grow vegetables and fruits in about 2 acres, most of which will be purchased by the rainforest retreat and some will be available for sale to clients. Vegetable cultivation will begin by Sept. 15 as it is still raining and some areas are flooded.

**P Muthupande, age 32 yrs, supervisor for Rainforest Retreat**

He has been given ½ acre land to cultivate vegetables that will be purchased by the Rainforest Retreat. He will also be responsible for demonstration of the various methods of organic cultivation developed here and supervise and check the work on the other plantations.

The prolonged rains have affected the vegetable crops all over this area. One set of seedlings (planted September end/ beginning October) was lost due to the rains/disease so both Muthupande and Muthanna have replanted various seeds in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October. The beans were planted directly and have germinated and are growing well. Most other seeds have just germinated and require a couple of weeks before they can be transplanted.

**Marketing:**

Since the first produce is ready to be marketed, we have designed a simple label (that we can print with our computer) that can be used for all the produce from the association. Initially the tea will be packaged and sold through the Rainforest Retreat, then when there is more produce we will approach other shops in Madikeri frequented by tourists and other potential clientele.

**Financial statement, so far:**

Purchase of stamp paper	INR 170
Advocate fees	INR 3,500
Purchase of EM	INR 2,500
Purchase of rice bran	INR 3,150
Purchase of neem cake	INR 1,380
Oil cake	INR 400
Jaggery (10 kg)	INR 200
Transport	INR 500
<hr/>	
Total	INR 11,800

**Background material on the methods of organic cultivation being used by the GOA.**

Whether one is undertaking or conventional farming, one still needs to provide nutrients to the plants and be able to prevent/fight pest and pathogen attack. One of the methods we have been using at the rainforest retreat is the use of EM (Effective Micro-organisms). EM is a mixed liquid culture of beneficial micro-organisms (primarily photosynthetic and lactic acid bacteria, yeast, actinomycetes, fermenting fungi) that can be applied as an inoculant to increase the microbial diversity of soils. This in turn can improve soil quality and health, which enhances the growth, yield, and quality of crops. It does not contain any genetically modified organisms, is safe and easy to handle and harmless to human health even if ingested. The technology behind the concept of Effective Micro-organisms and its practical application was developed by Professor Teruo Higa at the University of the Ryukyu in Okinawa, Japan and is available in 120 countries including India. EM offers benefits in the following fields of activities: farming, animal husbandry and care, aquaculture, solid waste management, sewage and effluent treatment, hazardous waste treatment, hygiene management, and environmental regeneration.

**Preparation of EM**

EM is purchased from Maple Organics in Calcutta and comes in 1 litre bottles (see photo 1). The local distributor here is golden mist plantations. This 1 litre solution is mixed with 1 litre cane molasses (or 1 kg jaggery) and 18 lt of water and put into a 20 lt carboy and closed tight (the cover must be loosened daily to allow for gases to escape). This solution is called active EM and is ready to use in 1-2 weeks time. It must be diluted 500 – 1000 fold and can be used as a foliar spray or for drenching the soil around the plants. It is also used to prepare a very potent compost called ‘Bokashi’. There are also several EM derivatives one can prepare and below are some examples and how they are prepared.

**EM Derivatives**

1. *EM-FPE (Fermented Plant Extract)*: Bioactive supplement of vitamins, hormones and enzymes. FPE prevents pests & disease of the plants and soil, too. The cost of making FPE can be very cheap if you use weeds, but using herbs will improve its quality and is then similar to EM Insecticide (Isseki-Sancho or 3-in-1).

2. *EM 3-in-1 or EM Insecticide*: This is a powerful contact poison and although organic and made from known spices, should ideally only be used when there is a problem. It will also harm beneficial insects. However it is often brewed together with the EM5 and sprayed preventatively.

3. *EM-FF (Fermented Fish)*: This is a good foliar feed, acts as a tonic and provides Nitrogen to plants in slow release. The use on crops results in fruit sugar content rise and with constant application will help by supplementing photosynthetic bacteria and amino acids.

4. *EM-FCM (Fermented Chicken Manure)*: This is a good foliar feed and will provide immediate N and P to the plant in times of shortages from the soil.

5. *EM5*: This derivative is an organic insect repellent and is non-toxic. EM5 is used to help prevent disease and pest problems in crop plants and is also effective for animals to prevent insects from attacking their skin. It is mainly used to repel insects by creating a distasteful barrier. EM5 also helps control diseases/pest attack by the mechanism of ‘competitive exclusion’, a form of natural biological control.

6. *EM Bokashi*: Bokashi is a Japanese word, which means ‘fermented organic matter’. Make Bokashi by fermenting organic matter (e.g. bran, oilcake etc) with Multi EM in an airtight container. EM Bokashi is on one hand an important soil amendment used to promote the increase in plant nutrients and the abundance of beneficial micro organisms in the soil and on the other hand a valuable feed amendment and used for livestock. Use at a rate of between 1% and 3 % of their total diet. The first demonstration batch of Bokashi that was made was using high concentration of rice bran. This was ready in 4 weeks and distributed among the members (aprox. 50 kg each person) so they can see the final product and put it to use and see the results with a rich compost. However, sufficient rice bran was not available in Madikeri (and it is a costly ingredient) therefore, we have modified the procedure so that fresh weeds and cow dung (which is available at all the farms) are the major ingredients. Photo 1,2,3 show members of the group and the mixing of the compost heap. Each member has subsequently made such a heap at their place.

## November - Eco Events

**November 2 ATLAS annual conference 2005-SPAIN**

Tourism, creativity and development University of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain 2 - 4 November 2005 Increasing competition between regions, cities and places for resources to support development is placing increasing emphasis on culture as a source of differentiation, inspiration and narrative. At the same time, widespread use of similar 'cultural economy' strategies poses problems of serial reproduction effects and the growth of identikit cultures. As the basis of competitive advantage shifts from natural to creative assets as a means of injecting dynamism into the local economy, local community and tourism, the creation of difference no longer resides solely in the development of fixed cultural assets or attractions. Contact: Leontine Onderwater at [leontine.onderwater@atlas-euro.org](mailto:leontine.onderwater@atlas-euro.org)

<http://www.atlas-euro.org>

**November 6 ASTA's World Travel Congress -****CANADA**

6-11 Montreal, Canada. Montreal is a fabulous destination city with much to offer you and your clients. This is a city you must experience firsthand to truly revel in its unique beauty. The Congress will focus further improving your position in the industry, enhancing your business outlook and learning more about a profitable destination. The knowledge you gain will take you far in this ever-changing industry. <http://www.astanet.com/>

**November 15 PATWA 2005 - International Seminar on Heritage and Environment - UK**

15 November 2005, London, UK. Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA), International Seminar on Heritage and Environment. Details : [safariindia@eth.net](mailto:safariindia@eth.net)

**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON COASTAL & MARINE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, IMPACTS AND MANAGEMENT-TURKEY**

November 15 - 18, 2005 Cesme, Izmir, TURKEY The congress will bring together academics, researchers and practitioners in the field of Coastal and Marine Tourism to discuss and debate important issues facing the industry.

Conference Secretariat: Ms. Cimen Karatas [cmt-2005@deu.edu.tr](mailto:cmt-2005@deu.edu.tr)

**November 17 Conservation and the Community - Conflict Resolution - UK**

The Earthwatch RGS Lecture Series 2005, Thursday 17th November 7pm at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 One of the most difficult tasks for conservationists is to reconcile the conservation needs of endangered species with the needs of the populations whose livelihood depends on the same environment. Join us to hear about two projects, one in Samburu, Kenya, with its high concentration of unique savannah species, and the other in north-central Namibia, focusing on the long-term conservation of the cheetah, where Earthwatch scientists are endeavouring to achieve

precisely this balance amongst the respective communities. Full details

<http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/events/index.html>

**November 24 5 National Meeting of Community Ecotourism Companies - Mexico**

In Villahermosa, State of Tabasco; Mexico, on 24 & 25 of November. Para asistir al evento se deberá llenar el formato de registro que se anexa y enviarla por correo electrónico a [nguerrero@sectur.gob.mx](mailto:nguerrero@sectur.gob.mx) o por fax al 01 (55) 3002-6357 antes del 10 de noviembre, la confirmación de su registro les llegará por la misma vía. El cupo es limitado. To Register: Dirección Turismo Alternativo de la Secretaría de Turismo al Tel.: 01 (55) 3002-6300 ext. 6304 y 6313 or email [nguerrero@sectur.gob.mx](mailto:nguerrero@sectur.gob.mx) and [lrueda@sectur.gob.mx](mailto:lrueda@sectur.gob.mx) Venue: Parque Tabasco, Prolongación Paseo Usumacinta s/n, Col. Ranchería Emiliano Zapata, C. P. 86035 Villahermosa, Tabasco.

**SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS - FRANCE**

24th-26th NOVEMBER 2005, NICE "Vulnerability of species and habitats towards tourism, state of the art and case studies" "Best practice examples of tourism management in protected areas" "Success factors for a sustainable tourism in the alpine protected areas" "Impacts of tourism on the nature: which kind of management?" <http://www.mtnforum.org/europe>

**November 28 13th National Ecotourism Conference - AUSTRALIA**

13th National Ecotourism Conference - AUSTRALIA 28 November - 2 December 2005 Hobart - AUSTRALIA Organised by Ecotourism Australia The main venue for this year's conference is Hobart, a modern small city of exceptional beauty and historic charm. Defined by the broad Derwent River to the east and Mt Wellington to the west, it is perfectly positioned to take advantage of dramatic natural attractions that support thriving ecotourism operations. Tasmania's southern regions will be your backyard with the tall forests of Mt Field, the powerful drama of the South West Wilderness, and the stunning coastal formations of the Tasman and Freycinet Peninsulas.:

<http://www.ecotourism.org.au/conference/index.asp>

**November 30 INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AND ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT - MALAYSIAN BORNEO**

30th November - 2nd December 2005, Kuching. The International Media & Environment Summit (IMES) in Kuching, Borneo later this year seeks to tackle the media challenge posed by these critical issues among other key 'green' topics such as the sustainable development, climate change and corporate social responsibility. The event aims to bring together key figures from media and the environment to discuss the dilemmas of communicating complex science through the media to a mass audience.

<http://www.newsworldnature.com>

**Stefan Gossling, et al. "The eco-efficiency of tourism", *Ecological economics* 54 (4, 2005) : 417-434**

Abstract: The use of fossil energy is one of the major environmental problems associated with tourism and travel. Consequently, the need to limit fossil energy use has been highlighted as a precondition for achieving sustainable tourism development. However, tourism is also one of the most important sectors of the world economy, and fears have thus been expressed by the tourist industry and its organisations that increasing energy prices (for example, as a result of eco-taxes) could substantially decrease the economic welfare of countries and destinations. In this article, the interplay of environmental damage and economic gains is thus analysed within the context of tourism. Carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions are assessed in relation to the revenues generated, allowing for conclusions about the eco-efficiency of tourism.

**A Spatial Analysis of Commercial Ecotourism Businesses in New Zealand: A c 1999 Benchmarking Exercise Using GIS**

Angela Dickey & James E. S. Higham, Department of Tourism, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand  
Tourism Geographies, Issue: Volume 7, Number 4 / September 14, 2005, Pages: 373 - 388

Abstract: New Zealand is renowned for ecotourism and nature tourism experiences, but, despite its importance, very little is known about the spatial development of ecotourism. Comprehensive benchmark information relating to commercial ecotourism operators in New Zealand does not currently exist. For the purposes of this research a New Zealand ecotourism operator database was analysed using the ArcGIS Geographical Information Systems computer software program to create maps and to perform spatial analyses. Results revealed the major ecotourism regions to be Otago, Canterbury, Waikato and Auckland. In addition, Southern Lakes, Dunedin, Kaikoura and Coromandel were identified as key ecotourism districts. The research also highlighted the growing significance of ecotourism business development in coastal and marine environments. The findings provide insights into the New Zealand ecotourism industry which could aid in the development of strategies, policies and systems for implementing and managing ecotourism. They also offer a benchmark for future comparative and trend analyses

**Can a Niche-Market Captive-Wildlife Facility Place a Low-Profile Region on the Tourism Map? An Example from Western Australia**, Michael Hughes & Jim Macbeth, Curtin Sustainable Tourism Center, Curtin University, Perth, Australia  
School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Murdoch University, Murdoch, Australia,

Tourism Geographies, Issue: Volume 7, Number 4 / September 14, 2005, Pages: 424 - 443

Abstract: Rural areas often present special problems in terms of tourism development owing to a lack of product, market access and infrastructure. This paper presents the findings of a case study focusing on the central southern wheat belt of Western Australia, in an area known as Dryandra Country. This area embarked on a tourism development initiative centred on a woodland and its wildlife tourism product. The aim was to develop the woodland as an internationally significant nature-based destination. This was attempted partly through constructing a captive-wildlife tourism facility, Barna Mia, housing some rare local fauna. Research during 2003 found that, while Barna Mia provided a highly satisfying experience for its visitors, there was little indication that it was progressing toward the international tourism icon status as intended. Further efforts to develop a co-ordinated regional product also appeared to be slow owing to factors relating to management of Barna Mia and tourism development in the wider region. This paper explores the issues as they were in 2003 and identifies key factors influencing the progress of tourism development in a low-profile region.

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